

Questions & Answers

1. Should I Create or Remove an Index? (see image below). Which boxes should be checked in the Manage Data section?

The screenshot shows a software interface titled "Optimize". It contains several sections:

- Description:** A text input field with a vertical cursor.
- Operate on:** A section containing:
 - Connection:** A dropdown menu showing "DAIRYLAND".
 - Cube:** A dropdown menu showing "Financial".
- Choose one or more actions to be performed on the facttable for this cube:** A section with two sub-sections:
 - Manage Indexes:** Contains two radio buttons: "Create Index" (unselected) and "Remove Index" (selected).
 - Manage Data:** Contains two checkboxes: "Compress fact table data" (unchecked) and "Remove orphaned records from fact table" (unchecked).

A: For most cases we recommend leaving *Remove Index* checked off. Creating an index will increase the speed of reports but will decrease the speed of actions that create new data (imports and data entry). If you're constantly doing a mix of both then remove index is recommended. If you mainly do reporting and rarely enter data then you may want to create an index and see if it substantially increases performance for you. Creating or removing an index does not affect your data.

Both options should be checked off under *Manage Data*.

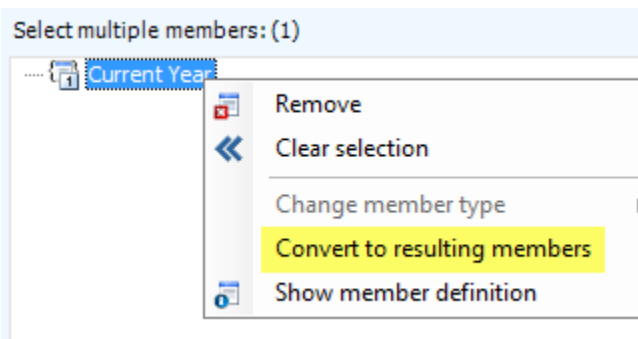
2. Question on Analyze function for dimensions

On the account Analyze there was a line item for duplicate names – is that a big issue (ie different key same name)?

A: This is not a major issue and won't impact performance in any way. The only concern regarding this is that your end users may be confused if multiple accounts share the exact same name. For this reason, we recommend every account have a unique name.

3. In a template that uses a Named Set for a month column, can a copy of that template be saved with the actual month, instead of the Name Set?

- a. You can modify the template and have the named set resolve to the actual month. Then you could save the template as a new one that no longer has the named set. Simply edit the column/row where the named set is, right click the named set and select *Convert to resulting members* (see image below)



4. When using the Infocflex to consolidate versions into a 'history' version, how will the templates be effected that are tied to the original versions? Will line item details and cell comments be lost?

- a. If you delete original version, templates tied to the original version will generate errors/warnings until the template is modified and no longer contains the original deleted version. This is another good reason to use named sets. If a named set was used instead of the version itself then simply updating the named set would mitigate this issue. Also sticking to just one Budget or Forecast version would mitigate this issue as well. Then you don't even need to archive everything, you can just use one version!

Back to infocflexing version data though; you can also infocflex line item details and cell comments using infocflex. The feature is a bit hidden; our online documentation explains how to get it working: [Click here and read everything under the Copying Supporting details section.](#)

5. And what is the difference, again, between "create index" and "remove index" in the Optimize Fact Table process?
 - a. I'll use an analogy to explain an index.

Imagine the Fact Table as a recipe book and each page is a recipe (a record in your fact table). There are all kinds of different recipes using all kinds of ingredients. People are always adding recipes to this book (data entry/imports) so the pages aren't in order. The larger the book gets (more records in your fact table) the harder it is to search. Every time you want all the cake recipes you have to manually go through each and every page looking for all the cake recipes. This is what happens when your recipe book (fact table) has **no index**. If you **create an index** for your recipe book, now you can just flip to the back of the book, look up "cake" in the index (which is only a few pages long and kept in order) and find the page number for every cake recipe. Your search is done in a fraction of the time!

SQL is smart, and if it see additional records have been added that aren't in the index, it will stop using the index.
6. Should we keep versions less than 30 per cube or less than 30 across all cubes?
 - a. Keep less than 30 versions per cube.
7. Can you use Named Sets in MDx formulas?
 - a. Yes you can
8. Do calculated versions slow things down?
 - a. They do and we recommend sticking with template formulas if possible. If you only have 1-5 calculated version than I doubt there's too much of a performance impact. Try and keep calculated versions to a minimum though.
9. Hello, I was wondering what the risks are associated with running the optimize process. What do I need to be aware of that could be an inadvertent by product of running the process? Thank you.
 - a. The optimize process does not result in any data loss. It only removes orphaned records, which are records that are not tied to any existing versions or accounts. See question 5 above for details about the create/remove index.
10. In process update cube, what is the difference between process full vs process data In optimize ours is set at create index what does that mean?

- a. Running a *Process Full*, is similar to opening model manager and pressing *Save*. It will resave all dimension data and sync data between the OLAP cubes and Fact table. Doing a *Process Save* will only do the data sync between the OLAP cubes and Fact table. Therefore, *Process Data* is always faster than *Process full*. See question 5 about creating an index.
11. Should you include an “Update” when setting up the Optimize Fact Table for each cube?
- a. No, the optimize process includes the steps done by an update process
12. Should the Optimize Fact Table process be added to nightly processing jobs, like actual data import to cubes?
- a. If running an optimize process in your environment doesn’t take very long then it would be a good idea to add it to your nightly processes. We recommend finding out how long it takes an optimize process to run in your environment so you can accurately determine the increase in time it will add to your nightly data imports.
13. Is it possible to use unique member combinations when one of the dimensions is a named set?
- a. You can use named sets in unique member combinations, but **only single membered named sets**. Those are named sets that can only contain one member.
14. The problem I run into with consolidating yearly versions is that each reforecast version has carry forwards from the Actuals version...any suggestions on how to consolidate them and keep each year’s carry forward respectively?
- a. This is technically impossible to accomplish. The only way to resolve this is to have your templates/reports reference the actuals version. This may mean, if you have Versions in the pages, you’ll need to include it in the columns, along with the Time dimension. When we provide this suggestion, we’re assuming that if you’re looking back at forecast/budget data, you’re only looking at the forecast data itself and not actuals. It may be a worthwhile exercise to determine why it is you need old forecast data and what you use it for. You may find that you don’t need more than 2-3 years of forecast data, making past forecast data irrelevant.